

EXOTIC Thailand

GOLDEN PLACES, SMILING FACES

KANCHANABURI

TOURIST INFORMATION



Further information may be obtained from :
Tourism Authority of Thailand

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Ubon Ratchathani 34000
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Amphoe Muang, Khon Kaen 40000
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Tel. (076) 212-213, 211-036, Fax: 66 076 213582

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Tel. (074) 243-747, 245-986, Fax: 66 074 245986

SURAT THANI :

5 Talat Mai Rd., Ban Don, Amphoe Muang,
Surat Thani 84000.
Tel. (077) 282-828, 281-828, Fax: 66 077 282828

NAKHON SI THAMMARAT:

1180 Bowon Bazaar, Ratchadamnoen Road
Amphoe Muang, Nakhon Si Thammarat 80000 Tel. (075) 345-512

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KANCHANABURI

Introduction

Kanchanaburi is Thailand's fourth largest province, spreads over 19,486 oftentimes mountainous square kilometres, and borders Burma to the west of Bangkok.

Kanchanaburi is site of the world-famous **Bridge over the River Kwai**, and is noted for rugged natural beauty where mountains and river valleys have inspired development of hydro-electric power, and where labyrinthine dam reservoirs provide further scenic elements to the province's natural beauty.

Beyond the compact provincial capital, some 130 kilometres from Bangkok, where the Kwai Yai and Kwai Noi rivers unite to form the Mae Klong river, Kanchanaburi unfolds in progressively scenic beauty.

Several waterfalls, caves once inhabited by Neolithic man, national parks and numerous opportunities for bucolic living aboard rafts on dazzling rivers and reservoirs provide focus of memorable holidays for nature lovers who delight in natural surroundings and pleasures without sacrificing basic comforts.

Attractions

City Attractions

The provincial capital is a relatively new town, dating merely from 1831 (2374). Major tourism attractions are inextricably connected with the Second World War, and more specifically, the years 1942 through 1945.

The Bridge over the River Kwai is internationally famous, thanks to several popular motion pictures and books. The black iron bridge was brought from Java by the Japanese Army and reassembled under Japanese supervision by Allied prisoner-of-war labour as part of the 'Death Railway' linking Thailand and Myanmar. Still in use today, the bridge was the target of frequent Allied bombing raids during 1945, and was rebuilt after the war ended. The curved spans of the bridge are the original sections.

The bridge, which spans the Kwai Yai river some 4 kilometres northwest of the Tourism Authority of Thailand Kanchanaburi office on Saeng Chuto Road, is the focal point of a riverside area of restaurants, souvenir, handicraft and jeweller shops.

Second World War-vintage steam locomotives, and a peculiar hybrid road/railcar from the same era comprise a small Railway Museum on the bridge's eastern approach.

A Japanese War Memorial occupies a small plot of riverside land just south of the bridge.

The Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, on Saeng Chuto Road, opposite the Railway Station, in immaculately maintained surroundings, contains the remains of 6,982 Allied prisoners of war who perished during the construction of the 'Death Railway'. An estimated 16,000 Allied prisoners of war, and 49,000 forced labourers died during the construction of the 'Death Railway' and Bridge over the River Kwai.

The Chon-Kai War Cemetery, 2 kilometres south of town on the bank of the Kwai Noi river, occupies the former site of the Chon-Kai Prisoner of War Camp. This second cemetery is more peaceful, attractively landscaped, and contains some 1,750 remains.

The JEATH War Museum, in the riverside precincts of Wat Chaichumphon, has been constructed largely in the form of an Allied prisoner-of-war camp. The name JEATH is derived from Japan, England, America, Australia, Thailand and Holland. The thatched detention hut with cramped, elevated bamboo bunks contains photographic, pictorial and physical memorabilia dating from the Second World War. Several prisoners-of-war who survived appalling conditions have donated items from that time to add to the museum's authenticity.

Opening hours : 8.30 AM to 6.00 PM daily.

Admission fee : 20 baht

Wat Tham Khao Poon, 1 kilometre southwest of the Chon-Kai War Cemetery, is a Buddhist temple with a cave containing stalactites and stalagmites, and many beautiful Buddha images.

Out-Of-City Attractions

Essentially, there are two major land routes for exploring main conveniently-accessable tourism attractions in Kanchanaburi.

ROUTE 323

The more western Route 323 largely parallels the Kwai Noi river to the Khao Laem Dam reservoir (153 kilometres from the provincial capital). Route 3199 follows the Kwai Yai river to Sri Nagarind Dam (69 kilometres away from the provincial capital).

Major attractions along, or near Route 323, and within 50 kilometres from the provincial capital, include:

River Kwai Family Camp occupies a lovely riverine environment 7 kilometres from town. The 45-acre camp is an ideal recreation site for families and nature lovers. Camp facilities include horseback riding and canoeing on the Kwai Yai river. Special outings in the vicinity include hill climbing, cave exploring and barge cruising down the Kwai Yai river. Bungalow and guest house accommodation is available.

For further information, and (Bangkok) bookings, telephone 2535676-7

Phu Phra Cave, or Wat Tham Khun Paen 15 kilometres from town, is where a legendary character from Thai literature is said to have studied magic.

Muang Singh City, Historical Park well signposted from Route 323, and 43 kilometres from town, is located on a steep bank of the Kwai Noi river where the waterway narrows and becomes fast flowing. The 800-year-old city ruins are of considerable archaeological interest, and the principal structure, the Khmer Prasat Muang Singh (Tower of the City of Lions) is believed to have been the westernmost outpost of the Angkor-centred Khmer empire. Skeletal remains, dating back some 2,000 years have been unearthed, and a wide range of artifacts including temple carvings, religious statuary, implements and pottery shards indicate the once-thriving city must have been inhabited from the 12th to 16th centuries.

Admission fee to Muang Singh City is 20 baht.

The Ban Kao Museum, 8 kilometres from Muang Singh, and 35 kilometres from Kanchanaburi, also overlooks the Kwai Noi river. The museum was constructed beside a Neolithic burial site discovered during the construction of Death Railway by an Allied prisoner-of-war. Some 4,000 years ago, Neolithic man lived, roamed and hunted beside the Kwai rivers, sheltering beneath rock overhangs or in nearby caves. The Ban Kao museum houses skeletal remains, pots, axe heads, jewellery made from animal bones and other artifacts dating from that era.

Sai Yok Noi Waterfall, or Khao Phang Waterfall, 60 kilometres from the town on Route 323, is the first of several waterfalls. The roadside waterfall is best visited between July and September, when water is most plentiful, and is located 2 kilometres northwest of Nam Tok Railway Station, the terminus of the branch line originating in the provincial capital.

The Lawa Cave, 75 kilometres from town, has stalactites and stalagmites in several chambers and is the largest cave in the area. Visitors may take boats from the Kwai Noi river **Pak Saeng Pier**, at Tambon Tha Sao (southwest of Nam Tok Railway Station and Sai Yok Noi Waterfall) to explore this cave, and travel afterwards upstream to the Sai Yok Yai Waterfall, 104 kilometres from town. (See TRANSPORTATION for further details.)

The Sai Yok Yai Waterfall flows directly into the Kwai Noi river and is the most popular attraction in the 500-square-kilometres Sai Yok National Park. The park contains several interesting caves, besides the Lawa. The Daowadung Cave, which also entails a river trip for visits is the most popular, and south of the Sai Yok Yai Waterfall is another cascade flowing into the river, the Nam Jone Waterfall. Wildlife in Sai Yok National Park's deciduous forests include small mammals such as bats, squirrels and deer, and numerous bird species, including wreathed hornbills and blue-winged pittas. Human presence at Sai Yok is known to date back to the Stone Age, and the Sai Yok Yai Waterfall has been repeatedly celebrated in Thai poetry and song. Bungalow accommodation, river rafts and camping facilities are available.

The Hin Dat Hot Springs, 130 kilometres from town, occupies a hollow some 3 kilometres northeast of Route 323.

The Pha That Waterfall, a three-tiered cascade, 140 kilometres from town, is some 12 kilometres northeast of Route 323, along the same track.

The Khao Laem Dam, 153 kilometres from town, has a 9-hole golf course, tennis courts, guest house and motel accommodation and a scenic reservoir upon which several private raft complexes offer opportunities for boat rides, swimming and fishing.

(See ACCOMMODATION for further details.)

Areas beyond Khao Laem meriting a visit either edge the extensive reservoir, or nestle against the Myanmar border.

Sangkla Buri, some 225 kilometres from Kanchana buri, edges the northern most extremities of the reservoir. The scenic 70-kilometre route from Khao Laem largely parallels the reservoir, passes several raft complexes, roadside cascades, and vistas of partly-submerged trees crowding the reservoir banks.

Three Pagodas Pass, 241 kilometres from Kanchanaburi, marks the rugged Thai-Myanmar border, and is the site of a small but thriving border market. The three miniature pagodas are memorials to what was a traditional invasion route favoured by Burmese soldiers during the Ayutthaya Period (1350-1767). Three Pagodas Pass is reached by an 18-kilometre all-weather road, signposted 4 kilometres before reaching Sangkla Buri.

Wat Wangka Wiwekaram, on the southern outskirts of Sangkla Buri town, edges the Khao Laem reservoir. The extensive temple is constructed in a pastiche of Thai, Indian and Burmese Buddhist architectural styles. The temple is highly revered among local people, including tribal folk and the Burmese.

Thung Yai Sanctuary Park lies to the west of Sangkla Buri, occupies a terrain of forested mountains and high plains, and hosts numerous protected wildlife species including tigers, elephants, bears and deer. The area is necessarily rugged, remote and demands 4-wheel drive vehicles for exploration. Special permission is required for admittance. Visitors interested in entering the area are strongly advised to contact the TAT office in Kanchanaburi for details regarding road conditions, seasonal accessibility and entrance requirements.

ROUTE 3199

Major attractions along Route 3199 include beautiful waterfalls in three national parks.

Bo Phloi, 48 kilometres from Kanchanaburi, and just off Route 3086, is where blue sapphires and semi-precious materials such as onyx, are extracted from open-cast mines.

Chaloem Rattanakosin National Park or Than-Lod Park, 97 kilometres from Kanchanaburi, and north of Bo Phloi along Route 3086, has long been a popular attraction. The 59-square-kilometres park encompasses peaceful forests, magnificent waterfalls and popular caves. The 300-meter-long Than Lod Noi Cave near the park headquarters is the most popular attraction. Numerous bird species, wild flowers, Than-Lod Noi Cave, the Trai Trung, Than

Thong and Than Nguern waterfalls comprise other attractions. Bungalow accommodation and camping facilities are available.

Erawan National Park, 65 kilometres from Kanchanaburi along Route 3199, is the site of the 7-tiered Erawan waterfall, widely regarded as being one of Thailand's loveliest cascades. The 550-square-kilometre national park enjoys a mountainside forest setting. Dense bamboo groves support numerous bird species. The park's other major attraction is the spectacular Phrathat Cave which contains monumental stalagmites. Bungalow accommodation and camping facilities are available.

Sri Nagarind Dam, 69 kilometres from Kanchanaburi, and just 4 kilometres north of the Erawan National Park, marks the southern extremity of a massive reservoir, which is part of yet another national park.

Sri Nagarind National Park covers 1,532 square kilometres. The park headquarters is 105 kilometres from Kanchanaburi. Major park attractions include the lovely 7-level Huay Mae Kamin waterfall, boat trips on the scenic reservoir, and encroaching deciduous forest and bamboo groves where kingfishers, parrots, bee-eaters, hornbills, woodpeckers, thrushes, babblers and numerous other bird species are really seen. Larger, more elusive mammals within the park's remoter areas include deer, elephants and tigers. Phra Cave and Niramit Cave near the park headquarters comprise other popular attractions. Bungalow accommodation is available. Because of relative inaccessibility (park headquarters can be reached by a 40-kilometre dry weather road largely paralleling the reservoir, and passable only by motorcycles, pickups and 4-wheel drive vehicles, or by a 45-70 minute boat ride from the Tha Kradan pier, 24 kilometres northeast of the Sri Nagarind Dam), and the fact that visitors wishing to stay overnight are expected to provide their own food, it is recommended that a visit to the park and waterfall be a one-day return from either the Erawan National Park or the Sri Nagarind Dam areas.

Special Interests

Kanchanaburi's 5 aforementioned national parks offer opportunities for either camping, and/or fishing or trekking along nature trails.

Camping facilities, which customarily provide cold running water and simple toilet facilities, are available at Chaloe M Rattanakosin, Sai Yok and Erawan National Parks.

Trekking along either well-defined waterfall trails, or nature trails to visit caves or appreciate local flora and fauna is a popular activity at all four national parks.

Fishing is popular on both Kwai rivers and the Khao Laem and Sri Nagarind reservoirs. Several raft resorts offer hired rods. Edible and popular fish include the Giant Gourami, the Transverse Bellbarb, the Giant Snakehead Fish and the Striped Tiger Nandid. Each is delicious when freshly cooked, either simply fried or in Thai culinary styles.

Rafting trips are available from the provincial capital and several holiday resorts. Raft trips leaving from the famous bridge, or the waterfront Song-Kwai Road area, cost between 2,000 and 4,500 baht for 10-15 persons depending on duration and destination. Trip may entail 8-10 hour return journeys, or include an overnight stay on either the Kwai Noi or Kwai Yai rivers. The visitor is advised to contact TAT's Kanchanaburi office for current information and prices.

Railway enthusiasts may travel along one of Southeast Asia's most historical tracks, namely the surviving stretch of the 'Death Railway', from the provincial capital to the Nam Tok Railway Station near the Sai Yok Noi waterfall. The winding track crosses the world-famous bridge and provides a clear indication of how difficult the original track (long since repaired and restored) must have been, especially through formerly forested stretches. One particularly exhilarating stretch sees the line parallel the curving Kwai Noi on a wooden viaduct towering above the river and hugging a steep, cave-ridden cliff.

Major Events

River Kwai Bridge Week

Each year, late November and/or early December, the world-famous bridge becomes the focal point of week long festivities. Highlights include exhibitions and historical and archaeological displays, folk entertainment, cultural shows, rides on trains hauled by World War II-vintage

steam locomotives, and a nightly son et lumière re-enactment of the bridge's Second World War history, including its 1945 Allied bombing raids.

Transportation

Transportation to Kanchanaburi

Kanchanaburi is connected by daily road and rail services with Bangkok and other neighbouring provinces.

Air-conditioned and regular coaches leave Bangkok's Southern Bus Terminal on Charansanitwong Road, Tel:414-4978-0 (air) and 411-0511 (regular) throughout the day for the 2½ hour journey.

Trains leave the Bangkok Noi Railway Station. Tel: 411-3102, for the slightly longer rail journey.

TAT Kanchanaburi Office-answerable to bus fare, distance, frequency tables for air-conditioned & regular buses from Kanchanaburi to Bangkok or Kanchanaburi to the attractions around or to the neighbouring provinces. The office also gives information on the rail service from Bangkok to Namtok.

Transportation within town

Transportation within the provincial capital is most enjoyable on tricycles. These can be hired at the rate of 100 baht for two to three hours, enabling the visitor to see the Bridge over the River Kwai, the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, the waterfront Song Kwai Road area and the JEATH War Museum in one circuit.

Motorcycles and jeeps can be rented on a daily or weekly basis at several outlets on Saeng Chuto Road, beside the TAT Kanchanaburi office, and around the Song Kwai Road area. Visitors are advised to shop around since hire rates and conditions vary, and to check with the TAT office for prevailing rates.

The boat trip to the Lawa Cave and Sai Yok Yai Waterfall from the Pak Saeng Pier at Tambon Tha Sao takes around 4 hours for the round trip and costs between 1,000 and 1,200 baht per boat, each with a seating capacity of 10 to 12 persons.

The 45-70 minute long-tail boat journey to Sri Nagarind National Park headquarters from the Tha Kradan pier costs 1,000 baht upwards, again on boats with seating capacity of 10 to 12 persons.

In each case, the visitor is advised to check with the TAT office in Kanchanaburi for prevailing rates and the availability of alternate methods of transportation, such as on public holidays and weekends.

Accommodation

Kanchanaburi offers air-conditioned hotels, bungalows, guest houses and riverside rafts within the provincial capital. River raft accommodation is available in several rural locations, alongside both rivers and the Khao Laem and Sri Nagarind reservoirs.

Visitors wishing to stay at any of the four national parks are advised to book beforehand, particularly if they intend to make weekend outings. Reservations should be made through Bangkok's National Parks Division of the Royal Forestry Department (Tel: 579-5025, 579-4842).

Visitors wishing to stay at Khao Laem or Sri Nagarind Dam must make reservations through the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) in Bangkok, Tel: 436-3179, 424-4794.

List of Accommodation

(F = Fan/A = Air-conditioned)

Note.: Room rate is subjected to change without notice

River Kwai Hotel

284/4-6 Saengchuto Rd.,
Tel: 511184, 511269, 511565
Rate: Baht 530-640 (A)

Sri Muang Kan Hotel

131/113 Saengchuto Rd., Tel: 511609
Rate: Baht 90-150-200 (A)

Prasopsook Bungalow

677 Saengchuto Rd., Tel: 511777
Rate: Baht 90-150-200 (A)

V.L. Guest House & Hotel

18/11 Saengchuto Rd., Tel: 513546
Rate: Baht 50-100-250 (A)

Wang Thong Bungalow

60/3 Saengchuto Rd., Tel: 511046
Rate: Baht 90-200 (A)

Boon Yong Bungalow

139/9 Saengchuto Rd., Tel: 512598
Rate: Baht 90-150

Sri Rung Reung Bungalow

1/2 Chaokhunnen Street Rd., Tel: 511087

Rate: Baht 90-150 (A)

Thai Seree Hotel

142/1-5 Saengchuto Rd., Tel: 511128

Rate: Baht 90-100-130-200 (A)

Luxery Hotel

284/1-5 Saengchuto Rd., Tel: 511168

Rate: Baht 800-100-150-200 (A)

Thip Waree Bungalow

211/1-4 Saengchuto Rd., Tel: 511063

Rate: Baht 60-120 (A)

Kit Chareon Bungalow

284/13-4 Soi 54, Saengchuto Rd., Tel: 511802

Rate: Baht 100-150-200 (A)

Sin Somboon Hotel

Near Chinda Bridge, Kwai Yai

Khaeng seann Village. Tel: 513218

Rate: Baht 200-400 (A)

Raft-Houses & Guest Houses In Kanchanaburi**Nita Guest-House**

3 Soi Visutharangsri, Baan Tai. Tel: 511300

Rate: Baht 40-60-80 (Raft-house also available)

V.N. Guest-House

44 Baan Noue Village

Rate: Baht 40-70-100-120

B.T. Guest-House

160/144 Saengchuto Rd., Tel: 511967

Rate: Baht 25-80

U.T. Guest-House

25/25 Patthana Street Tel: 513539

Rate: Baht 50-100

Nidar's House

11/8 Baan Noue Street. Tel: 513734

Rate: Baht 40-100

Suphakorn Chai Raft-House

Bann Noue Village, Song Kwae Street. Tel: 512055

Rate: Baht 150-200-250 (A)

Nittaya Raft-House

Baan Noue Village, Song Kwae Street. Tel: 513341

Rate: Baht 40-50

Bamboo-House

3-5 Soi Vietnam, Patthana Street.

Thamakarm Village. Tel: 512532 Rate: Baht 50-100

Resorts In Kanchanaburi

Kasem's Island Resort

27 Baan Tai Village, Tel: 513359, 511603 **BKK.** Resv: 391-6672, 391-5085 Raft-house, Bungalow accommodations = 500-600 Baht/day. Special raft-trip, Tours service arrangement on request.

Kwai Yai Garden Resort

123 Mu 2, Thamakarm Village
Tel: 513611, 513612 **BKK.** Resv: 237-6080, 237-6081
Raft-house or Bungalow accommodation = 500-600 Baht /day Special raft-trip, tours service arrangement on request.

River Kwai Resort

123 Patthana Street, Thamakarm Village.
Tel: 511313
Bungalow accommodation, 400-600-1,200 Baht/day.

River Kwai Lodge

164 Mu 2, Patthana Street, Thamakram Village
Tel: 513658
Raft-house accommodation = 600-1,000 Baht/day.

River Kwai Family Camp

Near by Suan Prasopsook Garden Resort,
Gaeng Seant Village, Tel: 512733
Bungalow accominodation 500 Baht/day. Domitory accommodation = 50 Baht/person/day.

Suan Prasopsook Garden Resort

6/1 Gaeng Seant Village, Patthana Street
Tel: 513215, 513219
Bungalows, town-house unit accommodation = 400-600 Baht/day.

Kwai River Side

64 Mu 2, Gaeng Seant Village
Tel: 513167, 513168
Bungalow accommodation = 600-800-1,200 Baht/day.
Raft-trip, tours arrangement on request.

Log Home Resort

29/1 Mu 2, Pak-Praek Village
Tel: 513258 **BKK.** Resv: 2511473
Bungalow accommodation = 1,200-1,800 Baht/day Raft-trip arrangement on request.

In Sai Yok District

River Kwai Jungle House (Ban Rim Kwai)

Opposit Wang-Pho via duct.

Tel: 561052, 561429

Bungalow accommodation = 650 Baht per head
include meals and tour arrangement.

River Kwai Cabin

located beside the Wang Pho via duct.

BKK. Resv: 412-4509, 412-4869

Bungalow accommodation = 580 Baht/day,
according to the programme arrangement.

Jungle Raft

Tambon Thasao, Amphoe Sai Yok,
Kanchanaburi 71150

BKK. Resv: 2453069, 2475373

Sai Yok Noi Bungalow

132 Mu 3, Tha Sao Village, Sai Yok District,
Bungalow accommodation 100-200 Baht/room.

River Kwai Village Hotel

Baan Phu Ta Kien, Sai Yok District,

BKK. Resv: 251-7552

Bungalow accommodation = 780-880 Baht/room/day

Home Phu Teuy Resort

Baan Phu Teuy, Sai Yok District,

BKK. Resv: 280-3488, 280-3489

Bungalows, Raft-house accommodation; 1,600 Baht/day.
Tour arrangement on request.

Sai Yoke Valley Resort

5 Kilometers in the connected road to Sai Yok District
Office

BKK. Resv: 5397431

Bungalow accommodation = 1,000-3,500 Baht/day
Tour arrangement on request.

Sin Somboon Resort

Baan Tha Kanoon Village, Thong Phapoom,

Tel: 511897, 513218, 513328

Bungalow accommodation; 800-1,200 Baht/day.

In Thong Pha Phum ■ Sangkla Buri

Som Jai Nuerk Bungalow

11 Mu 1, Thakanoon, Thong Phaphum District

Tel: 599001

Rate: Baht 80-150-200 (A)

Phu Pa Phum Hotel

Tambon Tha-Khanoon, Amphoe Thong Pa Phum,
Kanchanaburi 71180

Tel: 599035, 599048, 599063

Bangkok Flower Resort

2 Kilometres before the Khao laem Dam, Check-point,
Thong Phaphum District, Tel: 599037

BKK. Resv: 421-0020, 421-0024

Bungalow accommodation; = 400-650 Baht/day

Kao Lam Resort

1/1 Mu 4, Tha-Khanoon Village,

Thong Phaphum District,

BKK. Resv: 2770599

Bungalow, Raft-house accommodation = 400-1,200 Bath/
day.

Sri Daeng Hotel

Sangkla Buri Market, Sangkla District Tel: 595039

Rate: Baht 100-200

In Sri Sawat District Area

Erawan Resort

82 Sri Nagarind Market, Sri Sawat District,

Bungalow accommodation: = 200-600-1,200 Baht/day

Kwai Yai River Hut

7 Kasemsamran Village, Soi 6, Sukhumvit 71, Bangkok

BKK. Resv: 392-3286

Raft-house & Bungalow accommodation = 600 Baht/day.

Pae Chao Dong Resort

Bangkok Office: 1091/121-2 Nakorn Luang
commercial Center, Phetchaburi Road, Bangkok.

BKK. Resv: 253-5989, 253-4504

Bungalow & Raft-house accommodation: 700-1,000 Baht/
person/day.

Pae Nam Chon Resort

Bangkok Office: 257/1-2 Soi Sook Dee,
Patthanakarn Road, Klong Tan, Bangkok.

BKK. Resv: 314-3981, 314-4574

Bungalow & Raft-house accommodation: 750 Baht/day/
person.

Shopping

Major souvenir shops are concentrated around the eastern approaches, and riverine environment, of the world-famous bridge. Almost every handicraft produced in Thailand can be purchased there. Browsing to compare quality, and good-humoured but determined bargaining, will ensure favourable prices for readymade leisurewear and other apparel, and popular souvenirs such as bamboo musical instruments, palm leaf mobiles, ceramic decorations, lacquerware and bronzeware receptacles, paper parasols, and Thai silk and cotton lengths.

Kanchanaburi is fast becoming Thailand's major source of highly-prized blue sapphires. These, and onyx and topaz, are mined at Bo Phloi, some 50 kilometres north of the provincial capital. Visitors possessing special knowledge of gemstones, and keen bargaining skills, can make extraordinarily favourable purchases, either of raw gemstones or finished jewellery, in shops near the bridge or in the market area of the town.

Dining

Western cuisine is rarely found beyond hotel coffee-shops and guest house or resort dining rooms. Excellent Thai and Chinese cuisine prominently features freshly caught river fish. The most popular areas for dining, among Thais and foreign visitors alike, are the Song Kwai Road water-front and the riverine environs of the Bridge over the River Kwai. In both areas, several restaurants, some constructed on rafts, offer comprehensive menus. Live music is also frequently offered, particularly in the Song Kwai Road area.

Restaurants

Thong Nathee Restaurant,
Song Kwae Street, Tel: (034) 512944.

Pae-Bann Noue Restaurant,
Song Kwae Street, Tel: (034) 512326.

J.R. Queen Restaurant,
33 Chai Chumpol Street, Bann Tai,
Tel: (034) 511221, 511864.

Mae-Nam Restaurant,
Song Kwae Street, Tel: (034) 512811.

Pae-Kan Restaurant,
Song Kwae Street, Tel: (034) 513251.

River Café River Kwai Hotel,
Saeng Shuto Road., A-Muang,
Tel: (034) 511565

In Town Café, in Commercial Center
Saeng Shuto Road, A-Muang,
Tel: (034) 511238

River Kwai Restaurant
Near Bridge over the River Kwai
Tel: 512540, 512541

Sai Yok Restaurant
Near Bridge over the River Kwai
Tel: 512702

Neighbouring Provinces

Roads linking Bangkok and Kanchanaburi permit visits to several worthwhile attractions.

From Bangkok, these include:

Nakhon Pathom

The Rose Garden, a 50-minute drive from Bangkok further west on Highway 4, is a riverside tropical park-cum-country club. The Rose Garden has an 18-hole championship golf course, excellent accommodation facilities and a Thai Village where a daily afternoon show features traditional activities such as folk dances, the Thai wedding ceremony, the Buddhist ordination, sword fighting and elephants at work.

The Sampran Crocodile Farm, on Highway 4 (Phetkasem Highway), is the carefully landscaped home of some 3,000 crocodiles, including the world's largest albino crocodile, and other Thai reptiles and animals, such as elephants, tigers, bears, monkeys, leopards and pythons.

Phra Pathom Chedi 30 minutes further west, and 60 kilometres from Bangkok, has the world's tallest Buddhist monument. The 114-metre high Phra Pathom Chedi marks the spot where Buddhism was introduced, some 2,300 years ago, to the Thailand-to-be. The orange-tiled chedi, an architectural masterpiece surrounded by tree-shaded galleries and cloisters, dominates surrounding countryside. Each November, the complex hosts a famous fair when the temporal and religious combine in merit-making ceremonies, entertainment stalls, folk operas and general merriment.

Ratchaburi

Damnoen Saduak, 40 minutes south of Nakhon Pathom, is the site of Thailand's most vibrant floating market. Farmers congregate each morning in produce-laden boats to sell fresh vegetables, fruits, spices, poultry and the like, before moving to a second venue easily reached by road.

The boat trip is necessary to reach the earlier market, best seen between 6.30 and 8.00 AM, affords captivating vignettes of a waterborne way of life which has remained virtually unchanged for centuries.

Suphan Buri

From Kanchanaburi, returning along Route 324 via Suphanburi, the traveller may visit the **Don Chedi Memorial** where a white pagoda and a statue of Ayutthaya's King Naresuan the Great astride a war elephant mark the king's victory, at that sport, in single combat on elephants, over the Burmese Crown Prince in 1592. The victory is celebrated each January with a week long fair which includes daily re-enactment of war (or) battling elephant combat, exhibitions and various folk entertainment.

General Information

Tourist information is available from the Tourism Authority of Thailand Kanchanaburi office on Saeng Chuto Road. The information desk is open seven days a week, including public holidays, throughout the year, from 8.30 AM. until 4.30 PM.

Tourist police are attached to the T.A.T. office on Saeng Chuto Road. Bi-lingually, they provide speedy assistance to visitors in case of emergencies. Tel: 512795

Banks offering foreign exchange services in Kanchanaburi are as follows:

Thai Military Bank (Kanchanabuir Branch),
160/34 Saengchuto Rd., Baan Noue Village,
Tel : (034) 511677.

Bangkok Bank (Kanchanaburi Branch)
2 U-Thong Rd., Baan Noue Village,
Tel : (034) 51-1111, 511212, 512710.

Thai Farmers Bank, (Kanchanaburi Branch)
160/80-2 Saengchuto Rd., Baan Noue Village,
Tel : (034) 511203, 511774.

Government offices are generally open between 8.30 AM. and 4.30 PM. with a noon to 1.00 PM. lunchbreak, Monday through Friday, except on public holidays.

Useful Addresses

Paholpolpayuhasena Hospital

Saengchuto Rd., Tel: (034) 511233.

Preeshaweth Hospital,

Saengchuto Rd., Tel: (034) 611683.

Makarak Hospital,

Saengchuto Rd., Tel: (034) 541115.

Physician Clinics

Kanchanaburi X-Ray Lab.,

6-8 Kumuang Street, Baan Noue Village,

Tel: (034) 511970.

Jiraporn Dental Clinic,

55 Bovorn Street, Baan Noue Village,

Tel: (034) 511986.

Manas Karn Phaet Clinic,

160/45 Saengchuto Rd., Tel: (034) 511066.

Tharm Rong Clinic,

160/247 Saengchuto Rd., Tel: (034) 512242.

Prasop Dental Clinic,

98/3 Povorn Street, Tel: (034) 5133039.

Sayarn Karn Phaet Clinic,

81 Saengchuto Rd., Tel: (034) 512088.

Kanchanaburi Provincial Police Headquarter

Saenchuto Rd., Baan Noue Village,

Tel: (034) 511540.

Immigration Office (Kanchanaburi Branch),

100/22 Mae Klong Rd., Pak Praek Village

Tel: (034) 513325

Kanchanaburi Railway Station,

Saengchuto Rd., Tel: (034) 511285.

The Transport Co., Ltd.

Saengchuto Rd., Tel: (034) 511387

B.T. Travel,

Saengchuto Rd., (Behind T.A.T. Office),

Baan Noue Village, Tel: (034) 511967.

NOTE

แผนที่จังหวัดกาญจนบุรี MAP OF KANCHANABURI



แหล่งท่องเที่ยว (ATTRACTIONS)

ระยะทางโดยประมาณ
จากตัวเมือง
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE FROM TOWN

1. ถ้ำพุพระ PHUPHRA CAVE 11 km.
2. พิพิธภัณฑ์บ้านเก่า BANKAO MUSEUM 35 km.
3. อุทยานประวัติศาสตร์เมืองสิงห์ MUANG SING HISTORICAL PARK 43 km.
4. ถ้ำวัดตะเคียน WANG TAKHIAN CAVE 37 km.
5. น้ำตกผาเอื้อง KHAO PHANG WATERFALL 60 km.
6. ถ้ำลาวา LAWA CAVE 75 km.
7. น้ำตกโหล่นใหญ่ SAIYOK YAI WATERFALL 104 km.
8. ถ้ำผาดินสอ DAWADUNG CAVE 110 km.
9. น้ำพุร้อนหินดาด HIN DAT HOT SPRING 130 km.
10. น้ำตกเขาชะวาล PHA TAT WATERFALL 137 km.
11. เขื่อนเขาแหลม KHAO LAEM DAM 153 km.
12. ด่านเจดีย์สามองค์ THREE PAGODAS PASS 241 km.
13. น้ำตกเอราวัณ ERAWAN WATERFALL 65 km.
14. เขื่อนท่าทุ่งนา THA THUNG NA DAM 58 km.
15. เขื่อนลั่นทมศรีนครินทร์ SRINAKHARIN DAM 69 km.
16. ถ้ำผาทะลุ PHRA THAT CAVE 76 km.
17. น้ำตกห้วยขมิ้น HUAY KHAMIN WATERFALL 108 km.
18. ปั่นทองคำ SO PLOY (Sapphire Mining) 48 km.
19. ถ้ำเขาสองถั่ว (อุทยานแห่งชาติเฉลิมรัตนโกสินทร์) THAN LOT CAVE 97 km.
20. ธนดงเจดีย์ BAN DON CHEDI 30 km.
21. น้ำตกไทรทองธอง DAI CHONG THONG WATERFALL 154 km.
22. วัดวังวิเวกธาราม WAT WANG WIWEKARAM 235 km.
23. น้ำตกแก่งกระจาน KROENG KRAWIA WATERFALL 181 km.
24. เขื่อนวชิราลงกรณ์ WACHIRALONGKORN DAM 14 km.
25. วัดถ้ำเสือ วัดถ้ำธารน้อย WAT THAM SUA AND WAT THAM KHAO NOI 20 km.
26. พลับพลาธรรมจักร PHRA TAEN DONGRANG 35 km.
27. ศูนย์ศึกษาพันธุ์สัตว์ป่าเขาน้ำทิพย์ KHAO NAM PHU WILDLIFE RESERVED AREA 50 km.
28. ศูนย์วัฒนธรรมจังหวัดกาญจนบุรี KANCHANABURI CULTURAL CENTER 13 km.
29. สะพานรถไฟข้ามแม่น้ำ WANG PHO VIADUCT 53 km.

การท่องเที่ยวแห่งประเทศไทย สำนักงานกาญจนบุรี
TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND
KANCHANABURI OFFICE

KANCHANABURI CITY

Symbols

- Telephone Center
- ⛶ Hospital
- ▲ Temple
- Hotel
- Official Office/other Attractions
- Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT)

